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or the consumption of certain budgets, are at once apparent. Nor could this have been done without the years of unremitting toil given this task by the author.

Many other points of interest claim our attention in this volume: The errors of the Falkner Tables in the *Aldrich Report* are clearly shown (cf. pp. 17-19, 86, 92, etc.). There is a remark bearing on the marginal utility errors, when the author says that "a farmer's money-income is to him a whole—not an aggregate of successive tenths in each of which he sees a separate significance aside from its contribution to the whole" (p. 55). Among other points are: the effect on the arithmetic mean of excessive rises in price during the civil war (p. 58); the dragging effect of house-rent on the cost-of-living curve (p. 88), and a host of other suggestions. Chapter iv, treating of wages, is perhaps unequaled of its kind in accuracy and real value. In fact, the book is beyond praise; and the reviewer can only express the obligations of students of money to the author and to the university which made its publication possible in such admirable form.

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*Public Ownership and the Telephone in Great Britain.* By HUGO R. MEYER. New York: Macmillan, 1907. Pp. xviii+386.

I cannot understand what useful object is intended to be met by this book. The Bell Telephone Company would not care to circulate it, because it demands immunity from regulations which are not asked; and its intemperate bias produces a revulsion of feeling in the ordinary reader. The National Telephone Company can take only a mournful interest in it as a diatribe against that British bulldog obstinacy that finally forced it to sell out to the government. The American law-maker who is trying to draft a bill on sound principles that will preserve private enterprise and at the same time protect the public, will find in the book very little to assist him. Meyer's position seems to be that a public utility corporation like the National Telephone Company should be granted an absolute monopoly, unlimited in time, with power to use the streets and highways against the will of the municipal governments, and that the remedy for such evils as inadequate or discriminating service, excessive charges, and undue political influence, "lies not in the legislative limitation of the power and scope of the great trading

corporations, but in the upbuilding of a public opinion of such intelligence and integrity as shall prevent the abuse of power" (p. 247). Such a corporation is entitled to charge up to operating expenses "the cost of replacing plant made obsolete by the progress of invention, as well as the cost of a wrong policy forced upon a trading company by the desire of the State to protect its telegraph from competition, as well as by the play of national and municipal politics." In addition "a return of 8 per cent. and 9 per cent. upon capital invested in a new industry which is exposed not only to the risks and dangers inseparable from the upbuilding of new industries, but also to the risks and dangers gratuitously imparted by national and municipal statesmen influenced partly by self-seeking and partly by ignorance of the telephone business and class prejudice, is by no means excessive" (p. 38). Remembering that public opinion operates largely through "statesmen," Meyer's idealized monopoly is to judge for itself the costs and profits to be charged up against the public on account of the activity of those statesmen. If he had pointed out the glaring mistakes in the English policy, first of free competition, then of regulation, with the view of showing how to establish correct regulation, he might have performed a valuable service both for the American public and the American telephone companies.

For those mistakes were glaring enough. But Meyer misses them by reason of his peculiar magnetic influence on the facts. He is a most indefatigable prospector of blue books, and the facts all become polarized and turn the same side toward him, as his magnetic field passes over them. The current seems to be induced by a kind of frenzy against the Association of Municipal Corporations, which is a delegate body of some two hundred and sixty-eight English cities organized to protect municipalities against hostile legislation in parliament and to secure favorable legislation. This he thinks is one of the "most powerful political organizations" in Great Britain, "existing for the promotion of special interests in contradistinction to national interests" (p. 91) this being his phrase for home rule and municipal control of their own streets. Granting, he says, for argument's sake, that the allegation of undue political influence on the part of the telephone company was justified by the facts, "it still remains true that Mr. Hanbury's proposed remedy, namely municipalization of the telephone service, would but transfer to the Association of Municipal Corporations the political influ-

ence which it was proposed to wrest from the National Telephone Company" (p. 245). This incapacity to distinguish between the British municipalities controlled by the rate-payers and a private company controlled by stockholders, is the characteristic obsession of Mr. Meyer.

The position of the Association of Municipal Corporations is stated in full by their official representative (*Select Committee on Telephone Service*, 1895, pp. 1168-95). They were opposed to competition, and were opposed to municipal ownership of telephones. They favored a national monopoly in the hands of the existing company, though they preferred national ownership. They favored giving the National Telephone Company all necessary powers of right of way through private and public property. Instead of the existing license terminating in 1911, they favored an indeterminate license subject to purchase of the property by the government, not at structural value, but at "what it is really worth for the use to which it can be put." In return for these greatly increased powers they insisted on restrictions to prevent monopoly abuse, namely a maximum dividend on the "amount of capital fairly represented by their works," maximum charges by classified exchanges so as to prevent discrimination between localities, prohibition of discrimination between subscribers, and authority of the municipality to do the work of underground construction to be paid for by the company at cost. Because parliament did not enact such a law they forced parliament to incorporate the municipal veto, and because the postmaster general and the company did not make such an agreement they advised their members to exercise the veto. Thus, according to Meyer, "for five long years" the Association "annulled an act of parliament and prevented the public from getting an efficient and adequate service" (p. 97). He cannot understand this self-sacrificing stubbornness of the modern spirit that rules the British cities, which, rather than turn over their streets to an uncontrolled private monopoly, is willing to suffer doggedly for a time. And by disconnecting and assorting the testimony of their representative he quotes against them and in favor of an uncontrolled monopoly their concessions as to short-lived franchise and compulsory sale at structural value which they offered in return for acceptance of governmental regulation (pp. 89 ff., 121 ff.).

Mr. Meyer's book is rather a curious sample of social psychology than a useful contribution to a solution of the telephone problem.

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### NOTICES

*Les industries insalubres.* Par FRANÇOIS COREIL ET LÉON NICOLAS. Paris: H. Dunod & E. Pinat, 1908. 8vo, pp. viii+778.

This volume gives a very complete and detailed description of the industries classified as "dangerous" by the French laws, explains the reasons for the danger, the remedy therefore, and the legal requirements which have to be met in each case. Excellent as a guide either for one who has to conform to these requirements, or for one who wishes to know how France is trying to cope with this problem.

*Philosophie des Geldes.* Von GEORG SIMMEL. 2d enlarged ed. Leipzig: Duncker & Humblot, 1907. 8vo, pp. xiv+585.

There are no changes of importance in the new edition, the author having simply added illustrations and explanations in the hope of further simplifying the exposition.

*The Incorporation and Organization of Corporations.* By T. G. FROST. 3d ed. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1908. 8vo, pp. xv+909.

The new edition is marked by a considerable increase in size, due to enlarging the Synopsis-Digest of state incorporation acts which is brought down to 1908 and to the addition of some fifty new forms.

*Anglo-Chinese Commerce and Diplomacy.* By A. J. SARGENT. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. 8vo, pp. xii+332.

A careful and scholarly study of Great Britain's commercial relations with China. The author states that inasmuch as British relations with China are no longer the controlling factor in the economic development of the Far East, as they were during the nineteenth century, he does not attempt to analyze or explain the present commercial conditions in this volume, which deals mainly with that century, but offers it as an aid toward the proper understanding of the present through a knowledge of its historical antecedents.

*Current Issues.* By LESLIE M. SHAW. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1908. 8vo, pp. xi+487.

A collection of articles, addresses, and extracts from letters on a great variety of political and economic questions by the former secretary of the treasury. Mainly of value as representing the views of one active in political life and at the head of the treasury during an interesting period in its administration.

*Lawless Wealth.* By CHARLES E. RUSSELL. New York: B. W. Dodge & Co., 1908. 8vo, pp. vii+288.

A series of articles, most of which have appeared in *Everybody's Magazine*,